Celebrating Cultural Diplomacy: The International Forum on "Interconnection of Times and Civilizations" in Honor of Makhtumkuli Fragi's Legacy

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The International Forum on "Interconnection of Times and Civilizations – the Basis of Peace and Development", held in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, on October 11, 2024, marked a momentous occasion in global diplomacy. Organized to commemorate the 300th anniversary of Makhtumkuli Fragi, the revered Turkmen poet and philosopher, the forum brought together world leaders and cultural figures to celebrate the power of cultural diplomacy in promoting peace and development. With high-level participants including Russian President Vladimir Putin and dignitaries from across Central Asia, the event underscored the importance of shared cultural heritage in fostering international cooperation. By highlighting Fragi's legacy, known for his ideals of unity, peace, and justice, the forum demonstrated the potential of cultural interconnection as a powerful tool for addressing contemporary global challenges and promoting sustainable development.

Keywords: International Forum, Cultural Diplomacy, Makhtumkuli Fragi, Peace and Development, Ashgabat, Vladimir Putin, Turkmenistan, Cultural Heritage, Global Unity, Central Asia, Russia, International Cooperation, Humanistic Values.

Introduction

The International Forum on “Interconnection of Times and Civilizations – the Basis of Peace and Development”, held in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, on October 11, 2024, stands as a shining example of cultural diplomacy’s power to foster global peace and cooperation. Organized by the President of Turkmenistan, Serdar Berdimuhamedov, this high-level forum brought together world leaders and prominent figures from various cultures and civilizations to celebrate the 300th anniversary of Makhtumkuli Fragi, one of Turkmenistan’s most revered poets and philosophers. The event not only honored Fragi’s literary legacy but also sought to promote cultural interconnection as a foundation for peace and development in an increasingly interconnected world.

The purpose of the forum was rooted in the recognition that, as global challenges intensify, fostering mutual understanding through shared cultural values and historical legacies is key to promoting lasting peace and development. The forum emphasized the “interconnection of times and civilizations”, a theme that resonates deeply in today's world, where historical and cultural ties serve as important bridges between nations. By bringing together world leaders and thinkers, the forum sought to build diplomatic relationships based on cultural understanding and shared heritage.

At the heart of this celebration was Makhtumkuli Fragi, whose life and work symbolize the rich cultural history of the Turkmen people. Born in the 18th century, Fragi’s poetry not only contributed to the development of the Turkmen language but also expressed profound humanistic and philosophical ideas that transcend national boundaries. His writings advocate for peace, unity, and the common good—values that remain highly relevant in today’s global diplomatic discourse.

The forum also played a critical diplomatic role, fostering unity and cooperation among civilizations. Leaders from countries such as Russia, Armenia, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Pakistan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan came together to engage in meaningful dialogue, highlighting the importance of cultural heritage in modern diplomacy. Vladimir Putin’s participation exemplified Russia’s continued interest in strengthening ties with Central Asia through cultural and historical collaboration. Such gatherings provide an invaluable platform for

nations to discuss not only shared history but also strategies for peaceful development and cooperation.

Makhtumkuli Fragi: A Beacon of Turkmen Heritage

Brief Biography of Makhtumkuli Fragi

Makhtumkuli Fragi, born around 1733 in the Gonbad-e Kavus region of present-day Iran, is considered the father of Turkmen literature and a central figure in the development of Turkmen identity. He was born into a family of intellectuals, with his father, Dövletmammet Azadi, being a notable poet and scholar. Makhtumkuli was deeply educated in both Islamic and secular subjects, studying in various parts of Central Asia, including Bukhara and Khiva, where he immersed himself in theology, philosophy, and the rich literary traditions of the East. His broad education and exposure to diverse intellectual currents allowed him to synthesize various cultural influences in his poetry, creating a unique body of work that transcended regional boundaries.

Fragi's life was marked by his commitment to Turkmen unity and the spiritual well-being of his people. He lived in a time of political fragmentation and tribal conflict among the Turkmen, and his poetry frequently called for the unification of the Turkmen tribes under one state. This dream of national unity, expressed through eloquent verses, remains one of the central themes in his literary works.

Shaping Turkmen National Identity through Poetry and Philosophy

Makhtumkuli Fragi's poetry had a profound impact on shaping the national identity of the Turkmen people. Prior to Fragi, Turkmen oral traditions and literature existed but lacked the cohesive national consciousness that his works brought to the forefront. Writing in the Turkmen language, he elevated it to a literary level, creating a standardized form of Turkmen expression that helped consolidate a sense of shared identity among his people. His poetry, which often combined mystical Sufi themes with socio-political commentary, resonated with the daily lives, struggles, and aspirations of the Turkmen. His verses called for justice, moral integrity, and unity, ideals that helped strengthen the Turkmen people's sense of self and collective purpose.

His influence was not confined to his era; his works have continued to shape the cultural and political consciousness of the Turkmen. His dream of Turkmen unity was realized in the 20th century with the establishment of Turkmenistan as an independent nation, and his ideas have become deeply embedded in the national psyche. Today, Fragi is celebrated not only as a literary giant but also as a national hero whose writings continue to inspire the Turkmen people's sense of identity and purpose.

The Enduring Relevance of His Humanistic Values in Modern Diplomacy and Cultural Exchange

One of the most enduring aspects of Makhtumkuli Fragi's work is his emphasis on universal human values, which makes his legacy particularly relevant in modern diplomacy and cultural exchange. His poetry often expressed a deep love for humanity, advocating for virtues such as peace, tolerance, and understanding. These values transcend national boundaries, making Fragi's works resonate beyond the Turkmen context and contributing to global conversations about intercultural dialogue and cooperation.

In the context of today's increasingly interconnected world, Fragi's humanistic ideals find fresh relevance. The International Forum on "Interconnection of Times and Civilizations – the Basis of Peace and Development", held in honor of his 300th anniversary, is a testament to the global applicability of his vision. By celebrating his legacy, nations acknowledge the role of cultural heritage as a bridge between civilizations, promoting dialogue, understanding, and cooperation. Fragi's message of unity and peace aligns with the efforts of modern diplomats and leaders striving to resolve conflicts and foster harmony through cultural diplomacy.

Fragi's Impact on Promoting Unity, Peace, and Cultural Cohesion

Throughout his life, Makhtumkuli Fragi was committed to the idea of unity—both within his own people and among humanity as a whole. His vision of Turkmen unity, expressed through his poetry, was grounded in a broader humanistic belief in the importance of peace and harmony. In his verses, Fragi envisioned a world where different tribes, nations, and faiths could coexist peacefully, bound by a shared commitment to justice and mutual respect. This vision, while rooted in his

own time and context, continues to inspire efforts to promote cultural cohesion in the modern world.

Fragi's legacy of peace and cultural cohesion is particularly evident in how his works continue to be celebrated and studied in international forums such as the 2024 International Forum on "Interconnection of Times and Civilizations". His commitment to fostering a sense of shared humanity through literature has had a lasting impact on promoting not only national unity among the Turkmen but also global cultural exchange. Today, his poetry serves as a reminder that literature and culture have the power to transcend political and historical divides, bringing people together in the pursuit of common values.

In conclusion, Makhtumkuli Fragi remains a beacon of Turkmen heritage and an enduring symbol of cultural unity and peace. His contributions to literature, national identity, and humanistic thought continue to shape both Turkmenistan's national consciousness and global cultural diplomacy. Through his timeless work, Fragi has left a legacy that inspires the pursuit of unity, peace, and shared humanity, resonating deeply with the goals of modern international forums and diplomatic initiatives.

The International Forum: Bringing Together World Leaders

The International Forum on "Interconnection of Times and Civilizations – the Basis of Peace and Development", held on October 11, 2024, in Ashgabat, was a landmark event that underscored the importance of cultural diplomacy in fostering global peace and cooperation. Organized by President Serdar Berdimuhamedov of Turkmenistan, the forum aimed to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the birth of the legendary Turkmen poet and philosopher Makhtumkuli Fragi while also addressing contemporary issues of global significance—such as the promotion of peace, development, and intercultural dialogue.

Overview of the Event and Its Organization

Under the leadership of President Berdimuhamedov, the forum was meticulously planned to reflect Turkmenistan's commitment to its cultural heritage and its role in the international community. The event was held in the large conference hall of

the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan's capital, which was transformed into a hub for high-level discussions between world leaders and international organizations. The organization of the event was part of a larger national initiative to honor Makhtumkuli Fragi's legacy through various cultural and diplomatic events held in Turkmenistan and abroad.

Berdimuhamedov's vision for the forum extended beyond commemorating Fragi's literary contributions. It reflected his broader goal of positioning Turkmenistan as a center of peace and cooperation in the region. The forum emphasized Turkmenistan's role as a bridge between the East and West, leveraging its rich cultural and historical background to promote international dialogue and collaboration.

High-Level Attendees: A Diplomatic Gathering of Global Importance

The forum drew participation from an impressive array of international dignitaries, including heads of state from various countries in the region and beyond. Key attendees included:

- Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation
- Vahagn Khachaturyan, President of Armenia
- Masoud Pezeshkian, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran
- Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, President of Kazakhstan
- Sadyr Japarov, President of Kyrgyzstan
- Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh, President of Mongolia
- Asif Ali Zardari, President of Pakistan
- Emomali Rahmon, President of Tajikistan
- Shavkat Mirziyoyev, President of Uzbekistan.

In addition to these heads of state, representatives from international organizations such as UNESCO, diplomats, scholars, and cultural figures from around the world were also present, reflecting the forum's global reach and significance. This high-level participation underscored the importance of the

event, not only as a celebration of Makhtumkuli Fragi's legacy but also as a platform for fostering international cooperation through cultural diplomacy.

The Forum's Aim: Encouraging International Collaboration and Cultural Exchange

The central goal of the forum was to promote international collaboration and the exchange of cultural values, using the legacy of Makhtumkuli Fragi as a foundation for these discussions. Fragi's emphasis on peace, unity, and the interconnection of humanity was the guiding theme, serving as a reminder of the power of culture to transcend political and geographic boundaries. The forum emphasized that cultural heritage can be a vital tool in addressing modern challenges, from political conflict to environmental sustainability.

By focusing on the "interconnection of times and civilizations," the forum encouraged participants to view history not as a distant past but as an active force shaping contemporary global relations. The historical ties between nations were highlighted as a basis for building future cooperation. Leaders engaged in discussions about how shared cultural values and histories could be harnessed to solve pressing global issues such as climate change, regional conflict, and economic inequality,

Importance of Using Culture and History as a Bridge for Modern Diplomatic Relations

Culture and history play a unique role in diplomacy, often serving as neutral ground where nations can come together despite political differences. The forum demonstrated that cultural heritage, particularly through figures like Makhtumkuli Fragi, can act as a bridge between civilizations. Fragi's works, which promote values of peace, tolerance, and humanism, served as a common cultural touchstone for the diverse nations represented at the forum. By highlighting these shared values, the forum created a space where leaders could engage in meaningful dialogue about cooperation and mutual respect.

In the modern world, where geopolitical tensions can run high, forums like this one offer an alternative means of diplomatic engagement. Through the soft power of cultural exchange, nations can strengthen their relationships and work toward shared goals. The emphasis on Makhtumkuli Fragi's humanistic ideals provided a unifying theme that allowed for productive discussions, reinforcing the

idea that cultural diplomacy is an essential tool for global peace and development.

This forum demonstrated how cultural interconnection—rooted in shared history and values—can lay the foundation for more effective international cooperation. By bringing together leaders from various cultural backgrounds, it underscored the potential for cultural heritage to foster peace, unity, and collaboration in addressing global challenges.

Vladimir Putin's Participation and the Role of Russia

Russia's Historical and Cultural Ties with Turkmenistan

Russia and Turkmenistan share a long history of political, economic, and cultural ties, stretching back to the era of the Russian Empire and later, the Soviet Union. These deep-rooted connections have continued to influence modern-day relations between the two nations. During the Soviet era, Turkmenistan played an important role within the USSR, contributing to its cultural diversity and serving as a bridge between Russia and the wider Central Asian region. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, Russia and Turkmenistan maintained close bilateral relations, with cooperation spanning energy, trade, and culture.

Russia has also played a crucial role in preserving and promoting Turkmen culture, with Makhtumkuli Fragi serving as a key figure in fostering cultural unity. Fragi's works have been studied in Russian universities, and Russian scholars have long recognized his contributions to the literature of Central Asia. Putin's attendance at the International Forum symbolized Russia's ongoing commitment to honoring and supporting this cultural legacy, as well as its desire to strengthen ties with Turkmenistan in the post-Soviet space.

Putin's Speech Emphasizing the Importance of Cultural Interconnection for Global Peace

During the plenary session, Vladimir Putin delivered a speech that emphasized the importance of cultural interconnection as a foundation for global peace and stability. Drawing on the legacy of Makhtumkuli Fragi, Putin highlighted the poet's ideals of peace, unity, and mutual understanding, which remain highly relevant in

the modern world. He pointed out that in a time of growing global challenges, including political conflicts, economic inequality, and environmental crises, fostering cultural connections between nations is more crucial than ever.

Putin's message was clear: cultural diplomacy has the power to transcend political divisions and build bridges between countries. By promoting shared values and histories, nations can work together more effectively to solve global problems. The forum's focus on Makhtumkuli Fragi provided an ideal platform for Putin to articulate Russia's vision of a world where mutual respect and cultural exchange form the basis of international cooperation.

The Awarding of the Anniversary Medal to Putin and Other Dignitaries

In recognition of his support for the legacy of Makhtumkuli Fragi and his contribution to strengthening cultural ties between Russia and Turkmenistan, Vladimir Putin was awarded the prestigious anniversary medal commemorating Fragi's 300th birthday. This gesture symbolized the close relationship between Russia and Turkmenistan and highlighted Putin's role in promoting cultural diplomacy as a means of fostering unity across civilizations.

Alongside Putin, other dignitaries, including the presidents of Armenia, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Pakistan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan, also received medals. This collective recognition of world leaders reflected the forum's emphasis on international collaboration and the shared commitment to preserving and promoting cultural heritage as a tool for global peace.

Russia's Broader Interest in Fostering Multipolar Cooperation through Cultural Diplomacy

Putin's participation in the forum also aligned with Russia's broader foreign policy objectives of promoting a multipolar world order. In recent years, Russia has sought to strengthen its relationships with countries in Central Asia and beyond, advocating for a system of international relations that is not dominated by a single power or bloc. Cultural diplomacy has been a key instrument in achieving this goal, as it allows Russia to build alliances based on shared historical and cultural ties, rather than solely on political or economic interests.

By engaging with events like the International Forum on Interconnection of Times and Civilizations, Russia positions itself as a champion of cultural diversity and

multilateral cooperation. Putin's speech and the awarding of the anniversary medal can be seen as part of a broader strategy to reinforce Russia's role as a central player in the Eurasian geopolitical landscape, advocating for collaboration across nations through shared cultural values. This approach also reflects Russia's interest in countering the influence of Western powers by promoting an alternative model of global governance based on respect for sovereignty and cultural heritage.

In conclusion, Putin's participation in the International Forum underscored both the cultural and diplomatic significance of Makhtumkuli Fragi's legacy and Russia's broader strategy of fostering multipolar cooperation. By leveraging cultural diplomacy, Russia seeks to build stronger ties with Central Asian nations and promote a vision of global peace rooted in mutual respect, historical understanding, and cultural exchange.

Themes of the Forum: Peace, Development, and Cultural Exchange

The Significance of Cultural Interconnection as a Tool for Peaceful Development

At the core of the International Forum on "Interconnection of Times and Civilizations – the Basis of Peace and Development" was the belief that cultural interconnection is a powerful tool for promoting peaceful development. In today's globalized world, where nations face challenges that are increasingly complex and interconnected, the role of culture as a bridge between civilizations is more critical than ever. By fostering mutual understanding through cultural dialogue, the forum emphasized that lasting peace can only be achieved when nations recognize the shared humanity that binds them together, despite differences in geography, politics, or religion.

The forum highlighted that cultural interconnection, particularly through shared historical and literary legacies, can provide nations with a foundation for addressing contemporary global issues, such as conflict resolution, poverty, and environmental sustainability. When nations understand each other's histories and values, it becomes easier to engage in collaborative efforts to solve these challenges. This framework of cooperation, rooted in culture, enables countries to engage in dialogue on equal terms, fostering a spirit of respect and partnership.

Promoting Mutual Respect, Understanding, and Collaboration Between Nations

One of the key themes of the forum was the promotion of mutual respect and understanding among nations. The gathering of world leaders from across the globe, including Russia, Armenia, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Pakistan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan, underscored the forum's commitment to creating an environment where dialogue could thrive. By focusing on cultural exchange as a primary means of fostering cooperation, the forum encouraged nations to engage with one another not just through political or economic negotiations but through a shared appreciation of cultural heritage.

The idea that shared cultural and historical values can serve as a basis for collaboration is not new, but the forum uniquely framed it in the context of Makhtumkuli Fragi's legacy, using his contributions as a guiding framework. Fragi's works emphasize values such as peace, unity, and justice, which are universal and timeless. His poetry, which transcended the boundaries of his time and spoke to fundamental human concerns, provided an ideal backdrop for the discussions on collaborative efforts to build a more peaceful and equitable world.

The forum also addressed the role that cultural diplomacy plays in resolving conflicts and promoting sustainable development. By encouraging countries to engage with one another through their shared cultural histories, the event facilitated a type of diplomacy that is often more effective at building long-term relationships than traditional diplomatic efforts. The leaders at the forum were encouraged to use these shared values as a basis for peaceful collaboration on global issues, promoting not just national development but regional stability.

Makhtumkuli Fragi's Contributions as a Framework for Promoting Humanistic Values Globally

Makhtumkuli Fragi's legacy served as the philosophical and cultural foundation for the forum's discussions on peace and development. As a poet and philosopher whose works focused on humanistic values, Fragi's ideas resonate beyond the Turkmen context, offering insights into how shared cultural heritage can inspire global cooperation. His poetry, which championed the ideals of peace, justice, and unity, provides a timeless message that transcends the specific historical and geographical context in which he wrote.

Fragi's contributions were particularly significant in promoting the forum's theme of cultural exchange as a driver for peace. His works were used as a framework for understanding how literary and artistic traditions can shape not just national identity but also global values. By celebrating Fragi's humanism, the forum emphasized that the arts and humanities play a crucial role in fostering empathy, compassion, and cooperation between nations. Fragi's vision of a world united by shared human values was aligned with the forum's goal of using cultural exchange as a foundation for global peace.

In sum, the themes of peace, development, and cultural exchange that were explored during the International Forum serve as a powerful reminder of the importance of cultural interconnection in today's world. Through the lens of Makhtumkuli Fragi's enduring legacy, the forum highlighted how shared cultural and historical values can promote mutual respect and understanding, ultimately fostering a more peaceful and cooperative international community. The event underscored that peaceful development is not just a political endeavor but a cultural one, rooted in the humanistic values that connect civilizations across time.

Diplomatic Outcomes and Cultural Legacy

Diplomatic Achievements from the Forum: Strengthening Ties Among Participating Nations

The International Forum on "Interconnection of Times and Civilizations – the Basis of Peace and Development" achieved significant diplomatic milestones by bringing together high-level representatives from across Central Asia, Russia, and beyond. Leaders from Russia, Armenia, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and other nations used the event as a platform to reinforce existing relationships and foster new avenues of cooperation. Through the celebration of a shared cultural figure, Makhtumkuli Fragi, the forum underscored the importance of cultural diplomacy in strengthening bilateral and multilateral ties.

This event created a space where countries could engage in soft diplomacy, focusing on cultural exchange and historical ties rather than contentious political

or economic issues. The forum emphasized shared values, which helped to create an atmosphere of trust and collaboration among the participating nations. One key diplomatic achievement was the deepening of regional cooperation in Central Asia, as countries discussed ways to enhance cultural and educational exchanges, particularly in the context of shared literary and historical legacies.

The presence of Russian President Vladimir Putin, along with other influential leaders, demonstrated the significance of the forum in facilitating dialogue on regional stability and cooperation. Russia, in particular, used the forum to strengthen its ties with Turkmenistan and the broader Central Asian region, furthering its strategic interests through cultural diplomacy. The event highlighted that cultural heritage can be an effective tool for diplomacy, creating lasting relationships grounded in shared historical experiences.

Cultural Exchanges Initiated as Part of the Broader Celebration of Makhtumkuli Fragi

The celebration of Makhtumkuli Fragi's 300th anniversary was not limited to the diplomatic realm but also included a wide array of cultural exchanges that were initiated as part of the broader event. These exchanges took the form of academic discussions, literary festivals, and artistic exhibitions, all designed to promote a deeper understanding of Fragi's contributions to Turkmen and global culture. Several participating nations announced new partnerships aimed at promoting cultural heritage preservation, including joint educational programs and translation projects focused on Turkmen literature.

In addition to fostering cross-cultural understanding, these exchanges contributed to a wider appreciation of Fragi's humanistic values, which emphasize peace, unity, and the common good. By engaging in these cultural exchanges, countries demonstrated their commitment to using literature and the arts as tools for diplomacy. The forum also facilitated interdisciplinary collaborations, with scholars, artists, and diplomats working together to explore the continued relevance of Fragi's ideas in the modern world.

The Role of Forums Like This in Maintaining Peaceful Relations and Fostering Development

Forums like the International Forum on Interconnection of Times and Civilizations play a crucial role in maintaining peaceful international relations by providing a platform for cultural diplomacy and dialogue. By focusing on shared cultural and historical legacies, these events offer an alternative to traditional forms of diplomacy, which can sometimes be fraught with political tensions. In this context, cultural diplomacy helps to establish long-term relationships based on mutual respect and understanding, which are essential for fostering global peace.

The forum in Ashgabat provided an important venue for discussing how cultural exchange can be used to promote sustainable development. By recognizing that cultural heritage is an integral part of national identity and international cooperation, the event underscored the importance of preserving and promoting cultural traditions as a means of supporting development. Nations agreed that by promoting cultural dialogue, they could not only strengthen ties but also work together to address global challenges such as economic inequality, climate change, and social injustice.

Legacy of the Event: Inspiring Future Dialogues on Peace and Development Through Culture

The legacy of this forum will likely extend far beyond the immediate outcomes of the event, inspiring future dialogues on peace and development through cultural exchange. The focus on Makhtumkuli Fragi's humanistic values as a guiding framework for these discussions will continue to resonate with nations seeking to use cultural diplomacy as a means of achieving global harmony. Fragi's ideas about peace, unity, and justice will serve as an enduring reference point for future forums and international gatherings.

The success of the 2024 forum demonstrated the potential for using historical and cultural figures as symbols of international cooperation. By celebrating Makhtumkuli Fragi, nations were able to engage in meaningful discussions about how shared cultural heritage can inspire peaceful development in the modern world. The event's emphasis on cultural interconnection will continue to shape the way nations approach diplomacy, encouraging them to use shared values and historical ties to address contemporary challenges.

In conclusion, the International Forum on Interconnection of Times and Civilizations left a lasting impact by promoting cultural diplomacy as a key tool for global peace and development. Through the celebration of Makhtumkuli Fragi's legacy, the forum demonstrated that cultural interconnection has the power to transcend political divides, fostering long-term cooperation and collaboration among nations. The event's legacy will inspire future efforts to use culture and history as foundations for diplomatic dialogue, ensuring that peace and development remain central to global relations.

Conclusion

The International Forum on "Interconnection of Times and Civilizations – the Basis of Peace and Development", held in Ashgabat, proved to be a significant achievement in promoting global unity through cultural diplomacy. By celebrating the 300th anniversary of Makhtumkuli Fragi, the forum provided an invaluable platform for world leaders, diplomats, and cultural figures to engage in meaningful dialogue on the importance of shared cultural heritage as a basis for international cooperation. The event's success lay in its ability to foster mutual understanding and respect, demonstrating that cultural connections transcend political divides and serve as powerful tools for building long-lasting relationships between nations.

Fragi's legacy played a pivotal role in shaping the discussions at the forum, offering a timeless framework for humanistic values such as peace, unity, and justice. His poetry and philosophical ideas, which continue to resonate deeply within the Turkmen community and beyond, highlighted the enduring relevance of cultural figures in diplomacy. By framing the forum's discussions around Fragi's values, the event underscored the role of literature, art, and history in shaping modern diplomatic efforts. As nations face increasingly complex global challenges, Fragi's legacy reminds us that cultural diplomacy can serve as an effective means of promoting peaceful development and international cooperation.

Looking ahead, the potential of cultural exchange as a foundation for peace and development in the 21st century cannot be overstated. The forum demonstrated that when countries come together to celebrate shared histories and values, they create opportunities for collaboration that go beyond politics and economics. By

fostering an environment where nations can engage in cultural dialogue, events like this forum pave the way for sustainable development and regional stability. The legacy of the Ashgabat forum will inspire future efforts to use cultural diplomacy as a central tool in the pursuit of global peace, ensuring that the humanistic values championed by figures like Makhtumkuli Fragi continue to guide international relations in the years to come.

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